

Amendment(s) to the Specification

Please replace the as-filed Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A system for sample fraction collection in chromatography employing a volume-increasing extended vessel assembly that increases the total collectible volume of a liquid sample fraction from a chromatography system into a single collection vessel. The fraction collection system may be used in an automated system for collection, purification, and storage of purified sample fractions. The collection system improves productivity while reducing the need for sample transfer between vessels and reducing the risk of human error. The collected liquid solvent may be removed after purification using one of several types of evaporation devices or techniques, such as evaporation at moderate temperature under a vacuum with liquid agitation. Collection vessels may be labeled and grouped into labeled racks for tracking, efficient movement between system modules, and storage.